

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

This invention relates to geometric instruments and, more particularly, to levels (sometimes referred to as "spirit levels") used by carpenters and the like.

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The plumb vial is typically disposed within the web member of a level which connects the two measuring surfaces. Often such plumb vials are simply inserted into an aperture in such web member. However, such attachment often does not provide sufficient support or protection to the plumb vial (or any other vial mounted in the web portion.)

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, line 21 with the following paragraphs:

Another object of the invention is to provide a new method which results in a level having vials which are secure and impact resistant.

How these and other objects are accomplished will become apparent from the following descriptions and from the drawings.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

In other embodiments, the invention is a level having a vial secured thereto, with the level comprising a body having a measuring surface and a recess; a vial positioned in the recess at an angular relationship to the measuring surface; and a ring member enclosing the vial within the recess, the ring member engaging the vial and the body and fastened to the body, the ring member having a beveled edge forming a funnel-shaped surface defining slope lines, the slope

lines intersecting the vial, whereby the vial is protected by the level and ring member while visibility of the vial is enhanced.[]]

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged cross section view of a portion of the level of FIGURES 2 [[1]] and 3 [[4]].

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURES 1 and 2 are perspective views of alternate designs of a level 10 having a ring member 20 holding a vial 13. Level 10 includes a measuring surface 11 for contacting a surface to measure or set its levelness. Level 10 further includes a recess 12 (shown more clearly in FIGURE 6) for receiving vial 13.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Vial 13 ~~10~~ is received in recess 12 and is fastened therein and held by ring member 20. Ring member 20 includes a front portion 21 and a rear portion 22 (shown in FIGURES 4 and 5). Ring member 20 has a beveled edge 23 and includes a funnel-shaped surface 24 defining slope lines 27. As shown in FIGURE 2, slope lines 27 intersect with vial 13 ~~10~~, and more exactly, with a central portion 14 of vial 10. Likewise ~~Alternatively~~, vial 13 ~~is 10~~ ~~may be~~ positioned between the slope lines 27 defined by ~~of opposite sides of~~ the funnel-shaped surface 24 on opposite ring portions 21, 22 as shown in FIGURE 5.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Ring member 20 also includes a second ring member or outer layer 40. Second ring member 40 includes wing members 25. Second ring member 40 has a front portion 41 and a rear portion 42. Each portion includes a beveled edge 43 and a funnel-shaped surface 44 extending therefrom toward the beveled edge 33 of the first ring member 30. Surfaces 34,44 are coextensive with one another and define slope lines 27 which allow a maximum amount of light to reach vial 13 ~~10~~ to increase visibility of the bubble 15 within vial 13 ~~10~~.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

A level and a method of forming such a level are disclosed. The level comprises a body having a measuring surface and a recess, a vial positioned in the recess at an angular relationship to the measuring surface, and a ring member enclosing the vial within the recess, the ring member engaging the vial and the body and fastened to the body, the ring member having a beveled edge forming a funnel-shaped surface defining slope lines, the slope lines intersecting the vial, whereby the vial is protected by the level and ring member while visibility of the vial is enhanced.[[.]] The method comprises providing a level with a recess and a measuring surface, positioning the vial in the recess at an angular relationship to the measuring surface, and enclosing the vial within the recess with a ring member, the ring member having beveled edges forming a funnel-shaped surface.